IN THE SPECIFICATION

In the Title:

Please delete the title and replace it with the following new title:

--DEVICE FOR ADJUSTING THE EFFECTIVE LENGTH OF A SLING AND DEVICE FOR LIFTING LOADS—

Please replace the first full paragraph at page 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--Another advantageous variant of the device according to the invention is characterized in that the carrier part carries a deflection element in the area between the projections to deflect another segment of the stop means. In the area of the stop points of the load, loop segments can be formed that facilitate an easy, secure attachment of the load. In addition, this prevents the segment of the stop means that directly links the stop points of the load from abutting the load. In particular, loads that have no defined stop points can be reliably transported in this way. In this case, it is beneficial in terms of providing a stable orientation of the carrier part if the surface over which the deflection element is secured to the carrier part ~~be~~ being located in a plane situated over the projections with the device in the operating position. The deflection element is here advantageously designed in such a way that its surface over which the stop means is routed lies under the projections. The reliable, stable alignment of the carrier part is also ensured by the fact that the deflection element and projections are arranged symmetrically to the middle axis of the carrier part, which is vertically aligned in the operating position.--

Please replace the last paragraph at page 5, with the following amended paragraph:

--The device 1 for adjusting the effective length Lw of a stop means A designed as a textile band folded into a continuous loop encompasses a carrier part 2, which is forged in a single piece out of metal material. The carrier plate 2 here exhibits two longitudinal sides aligned essentially horizontally in the operating position, and two narrow sides aligned essentially vertically in the operating position. A hook-shaped projection 3, 4 is molded onto each of the narrow sides of the carrier part 2. The hook opening 5 of the projections 3, 4 is here designed in such a way that the projections 3, 4 can be readily slung around by the stop means A without any danger of overlapping layers of the stop means A. Situated at the hook ends of the projections are optical markings 6, 7, which indicate a maximal permissible angle at which the respective load-bearing segments ~~A1~~ A11, A12 of the stop means A is guided from the carrier part 2 to a load L1 or L2. In practice, this maximal permissible angle measures 60^0, for example.--

Please replace the first full paragraph of page 7, with the following amended paragraph:

--The device ~~V1~~ 1 shown in Fig. 2 is used to lift the load L1. This load does not have any defined stop points. Instead, projections V1, V2 present on the load are used to couple the load L1 to the hook H of a transport device (not shown in any greater detail).--